

[Hospital Talk]

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK 15 Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Joseph Vogel

ADDRESS

DATE March 22, 1939

SUBJECT Hospital Talk - In The Waiting-Room

1. Date and time of interview
2. Place of interview Two women meeting in the waiting-room at Kings County Hospital.
3. Name and address of informant Anonymous
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

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NEW YORK

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Joseph Vogel

ADDRESS

DATE March 22, 1939

SUBJECT Hospital - Talk - In The Waiting Room FALLEN ARCHES

(Two women meet in the waiting-room at Kings County Hospital and exchange a few words.)

1. I had a pair of feet, it was something to look at. Before my trouble, I mean. Like two pieces of iron. So what happens, I go into the grocery business. And from the grocery into the hospital is like going from the parlor into the bedroom.

2. It's not so bad, it's not so bad. As long as your health is good, let the archer be high, be low, it's not so bad. But by me, the kidneys. (She coughs) Uh, I'm coughing now six days without stopping.

1. What d'you mean, it's not bad. By you fallen arches is nothing? Do you know what it means standing from morning till night behind a counter until you feel you're falling off your feet. You know how it feels? It pulls by the heart, it pulls (she makes a fist) until ,you feel you're fainting. You should see my Izzie, nebach. Pneumonia he got from standing on his feet—

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2. Since when you get pneumonia from standing on your feet? (She coughs). Gevalt, it's tearing me out the insides.

1. Listen, darling, I'll give you a prescription, it'll stop the cough in five minutes. So I was telling you, my husband is standing 2 on his feet, and the next minute he's laying on the floor. I grab him upstairs and put him in bed, and when the doctor comes he says it's pneumonia. For three weeks — for three weeks day and night, that's all I know is taking care my husband and standing day and night in the store. I'm telling you, even if I was made from iron, even if I was a horse, who could stand so long like an animal without a good night's sleep, not even a chance to close the eyes a few minutes during the day. So first I feel it's pulling up by the legs, then it's pulling me by the heart... fallen arches, yeh. So thank God my husband feels a little better so I go to the Chiropodist....

2. There is Mrs. Slakter, I was waiting for her. You'll excuse me, it was a pleasure to meet you.

1. We'll meet again, don't worry.

2. Well, goodbye. It was a pleasure....

1. Likewise, a pleasure.